5 September 2008

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Committee on Conferences
Substantive session of 2008

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Yury G. **Yaroshevich** (Belarus)

III. Meetings management/improved utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities

A. Matters related to and intersessional departures from the approved calendar for 2008

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 62/225, approved the draft biennial calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2008 and 2009 as submitted by the Committee on Conferences, and authorized the Committee to make any adjustments that might become necessary as a result of actions and decisions taken by the Assembly at its sixty-second session. The calendar was issued as document A/AC.172/2008/2 and Corr.1.

2. At its 373rd meeting, on 26 August 1994, the Committee had decided that, in future, requests for intersessional departures submitted to the Committee should be reviewed by the Bureau, in consultation with the Secretariat, for subsequent action.

3. At its 379th meeting, on 23 March 1995, the Committee had agreed that proposed changes to the calendar that did not have programme budget implications could be dealt with by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Committee.

4. At its substantive session of 1995, the Committee had decided that requests for intersessional departures submitted to the Committee that involved a change of venue should be referred to the members for approval. Departures that involved other types of changes, as decided upon by the Committee at its substantive session of 1994, should be reviewed by the Bureau, in consultation with the Secretariat, for subsequent action.

5. Requests submitted in 2008, and one request submitted in 2007, for changes of venue or additional sessions/meetings and the action taken by the Committee are set out below.

Organ	*Request*	*Action taken*
Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations	To convene one additional meeting in June 2008 in order to conclude its 2008 resumed session. Conference services to be provided on an "as available" basis.	Request approved
Fifth Committee	To extend the second part of its resumed session by one week, to 6 June 2008. Conference services were to be provided from those reserved for the General Assembly and would be serviced within existing resources.	Request approved
Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters	To convene the fiftieth session of the Board at Geneva from 9 to 11 July 2008 rather than in New York so as to give members the opportunity to confer with participants in the Conference on Disarmament. Since the Board also serves as the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the Geneva venue enables the Board members to be in close contact with the staff of the Institute.	Request approved
Commission for Social Development	To hold one additional meeting in order to conclude the work of its forty-sixth session, held from 6 to 15 February 2008. Conference services to be provided on an "as available" basis in consultation with Conference Services.	Request approved
Commission on the Status of Women	To hold one additional meeting in order to finish the work of its fifty-second session, held from 25 February to 7 March 2008. Conference services to be provided on an "as available" basis in consultation with Conference Services.	Request approved
UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board	To convene one additional formal meeting in order to complete the work of its second regular session. Conference services to be provided on an "as available" basis and without any adverse effects on the work of the General Assembly and its Main Committees.	Request approved

Organ	*Request*	*Action taken*
Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification	To convene an extraordinary session in New York on 26 November 2007, in order to conclude consideration of item 6 of the agenda of its eighth session, Programme and budget, and to adopt by consensus its core budget. Conference services and facilities to be provided from within existing resources and without any adverse effects on the work of the General Assembly and its Main Committees.	Request approved